

these 608 citizens, each of whose cases has been individually documented, each of whose situations has been chronicled, so that this is factual information. In fact, some of these people have been sighted within the territorial limits of Iraq. Yet the international Red Cross has not been able to bring these individuals back to their homeland.

Mr. Speaker, this is outrageous and this is wrong. This institution needs to go on record on a regular basis, letting Saddam and the Iraqi Government know that we are watching and that we are asking the question why these people are not being allowed to be reunited with their loved ones. The war is over. The conflict has ended. Saddam, in fact, accepted the terms of U.N. resolution 686 and 687, and yet here we are in 1997 in March and we still do not have these people returned to their homeland.

I would say, Mr. Speaker, that if Saddam Hussein ever expects to have the world community give him the kind of respect and perhaps the cooperation that he has said that he would like to have, and in fact that he says he deserves, he should start by coming to the public, to the world public at large, and explaining why these people are being held; and, in fact, he should take the effort to return these people back to their homeland.

As I said before, Mr. Speaker, the documentation for these individuals is, in fact, very substantive. The National Committee of Missing and POW Affairs has reported the number to be 608. This committee knows the exact numbers because they have a separate file and a separate computer database established for each of these POWs.

What we are saying, Mr. Speaker, I know what my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from California, DANA ROHRBACHER, who wanted to be here with me this evening. He would say, if he were here, that we want the Iraqi Government to allow these people to go back to their homelands and that we want to have a full accounting for these individuals, and that we expect the United Nations and the world community at large to assist us in making sure that we do not, in fact, allow these people to be kept under the illegal control of Saddam Hussein and the Iraqi Government.

There have been concerted efforts through an allied coalition, but these efforts have largely been unsuccessful. We are saying it is about time now that these other nations respectfully demand that which we are demanding, and that is a full accounting and return of these hostages.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my good friend and colleague, Mr. ROHRBACHER, for such time as he may want to use.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I join with the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. WELDON] and my colleagues tonight in calling on Saddam Hussein to release his captives. The

war in the gulf is not over until the hostages that Saddam Hussein is holding have been released.

The United States should not normalize relations with the regime in Iraq until these innocent people, the sons and the daughters, the husbands and the wives of the people of Kuwait have been released by their Iraqi captors.

#### KUWAITIS STILL BEING HELD PRISONER BY IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. ROHRBACHER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure tonight to join with the gentleman from Pennsylvania, Mr. CURT WELDON. The gentleman and I have both been active in working with the Kuwaitis on this issue.

Most people do not even understand that there are hundreds of people being held by Saddam Hussein in Iraq, who are just innocent women and children, husbands and wives, men and women, just ordinary Kuwaitis who have been whisked away by the Iraqi Army during the Gulf War and have never been returned.

It is one-tenth of 1 percent of the population of Kuwait that is still being held by Saddam Hussein. That is the equivalent in the United States of 250,000 people being held prisoner by a foreign hostile power.

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The United States can be proud and we Americans can be proud in particular of the role that we played in freeing the people of Kuwait from the aggression of Saddam Hussein and from the hold of Saddam Hussein. We can be proud that our soldiers, our men and women marched off and struggled for peace and freedom and succeeded. But the job is not done when the equivalent of 250,000 Kuwaitis are still in the hands of Saddam Hussein. One thing that we can be proud of, we won the war against Saddam Hussein. We won it. In fact, I was just in Kuwait several months ago and they have initiated democratic reforms in that country that seem to make it all worthwhile. They now have free newspapers and radios and criticism of the government, opposition parties. This is one of the highlights of the Middle East. This is a shining example of what happens when people really do want to try to set up a free society. The human rights abuses that Kuwait used to be known for have somewhat disappeared. But now they turn around, the people of Kuwait, their sons and their daughters are gone. Their husbands and wives are missing. Over 600 people are missing. The United States should make it clear that there will be no normalization of relations with Iraq until those prisoners are released.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. WELDON].

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. I would just add for the record that as I mentioned earlier, we also include nationals from nine other nations who are being held illegally by Iraq. These are not all Kuwaitis, these were people living in Kuwait, but some of them were actually of the nationality of nine other countries which include India, Bahrain, Oman, the Philippines, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Iran, and Saudi Arabia. There is a total of nine other nations. And we are not just talking about military personnel, we are talking about 29 people from the private sector, we are talking about 128 students, students that were taken away from Kuwait, their parents have no idea where they are or what happened to them. We are talking about 3 housewives, 18 retired people, and 26 who are unemployed. So it was across the broad spectrum. These are ordinary people.

Kuwait's point is and the world community's point should be if these people have been killed, then Iraq should come forward and say they have been killed. They should tell the families the whereabouts of these individuals. But that has not happened. We should not sit still while this atrocity continues.

I thank my colleague for joining me and for yielding to me.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. As I say, we have every reason to be proud of what the United States did during the gulf war to protect Kuwait and the other people of the Middle East against aggression. We have every reason to be proud of Kuwait since then because they have become a more democratized system. They have more of a functioning, representative government and they have reached out to end human rights abuses and moved forward to establish freedoms they did not have before.

We can also be very proud of the Kuwaitis for what they did when they were being held hostage and occupied by Saddam Hussein. They in fact risked their lives, common Kuwaitis risked their lives to protect the lives of American citizens who happened to be in Kuwait at the time that Saddam Hussein invaded. Just as the Kuwaiti people risked their lives for those Americans they did not even know, we should tonight make it our business to tell Saddam Hussein and the regime in Iraq that those Kuwaitis who they hold must be released and we must think about them. We may not know them but we know the Kuwaiti people risked their lives for Americans they did not know. Let us pay that courtesy back and insist that Saddam Hussein release all those prisoners.

#### CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GIBBONS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.